

Shackleton's Way - Exploring Leadership

NASA
Goddard Space Flight Center

Greenbelt, MD
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**“We had a grand concert tonight ...
and so ended one of the
happiest days of my life.”**

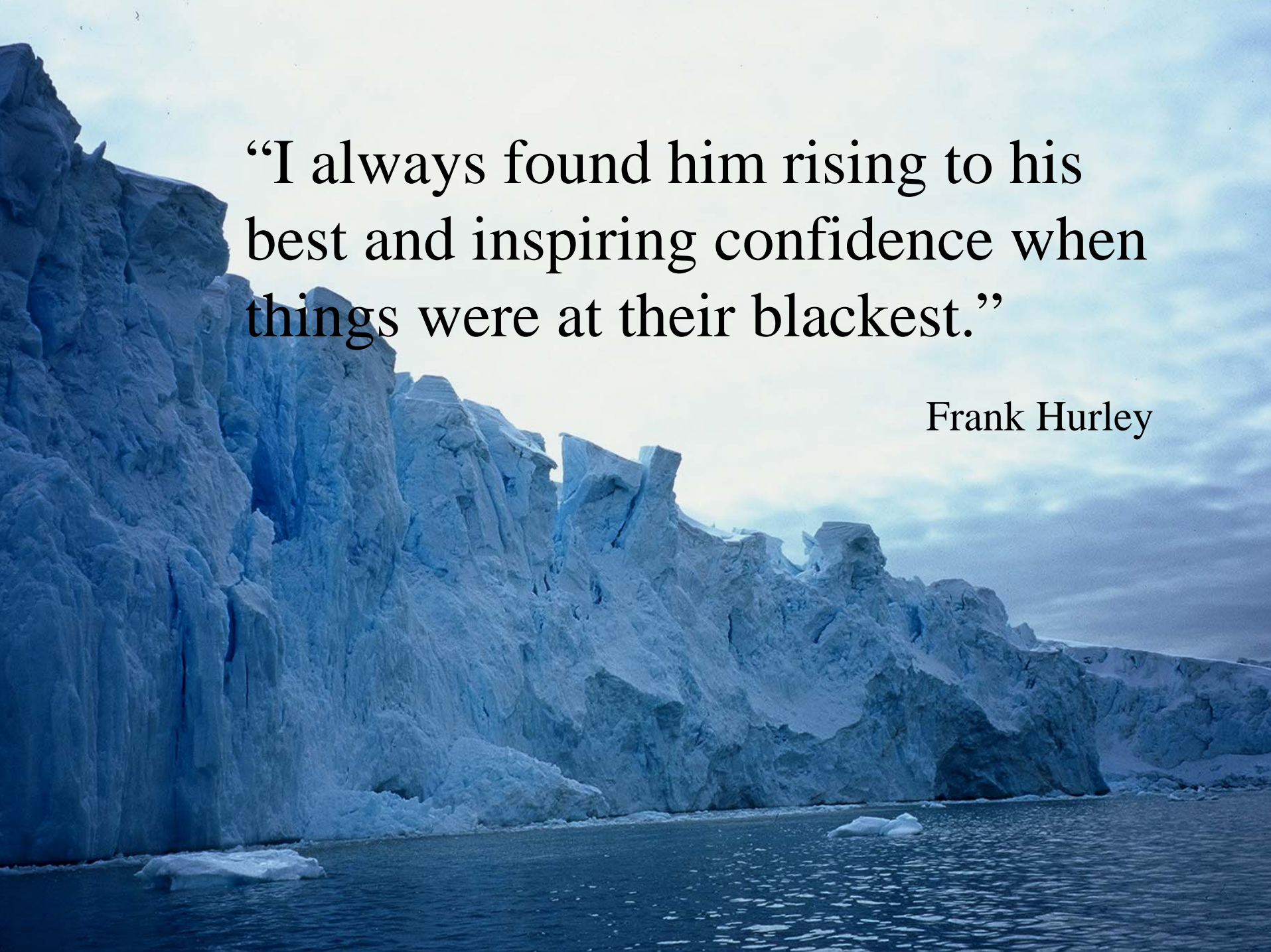
Thomas Orde Lees

Diary entry, June 22, 1916

“He was the greatest leader who ever came on
God’s earth, bar none.”

J. B. Adams



A large, jagged iceberg floats in the ocean under a cloudy sky. The iceberg is composed of several large, angular blocks of white ice, some with blue-tinted edges. The water is dark and choppy, with small ice floes scattered near the base of the iceberg. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

“I always found him rising to his best and inspiring confidence when things were at their blackest.”

Frank Hurley

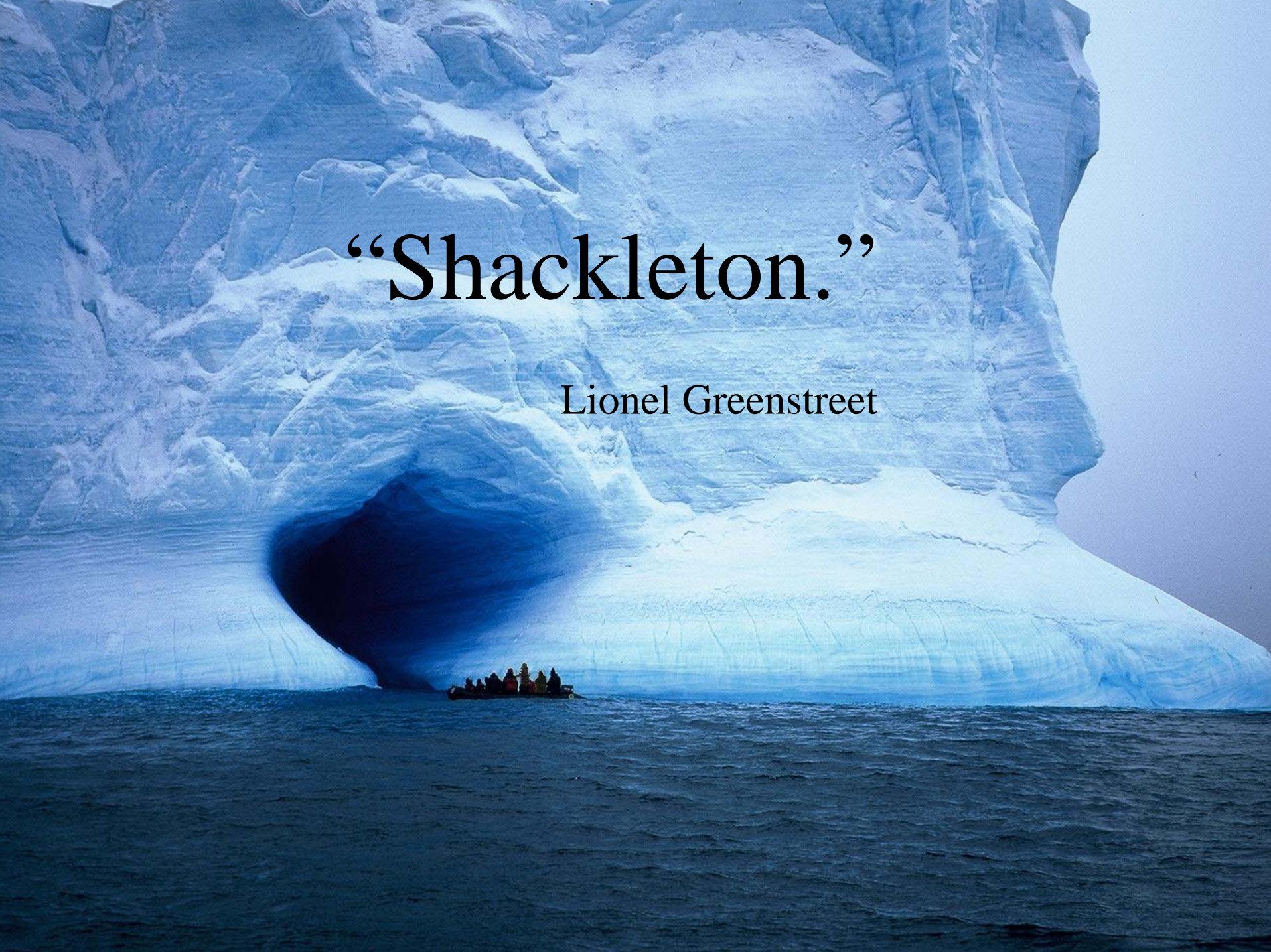
“I do not think that there is any doubt
that we all owe our lives to his
leadership.”

Reginald James



“Shackleton.”

Lionel Greenstreet

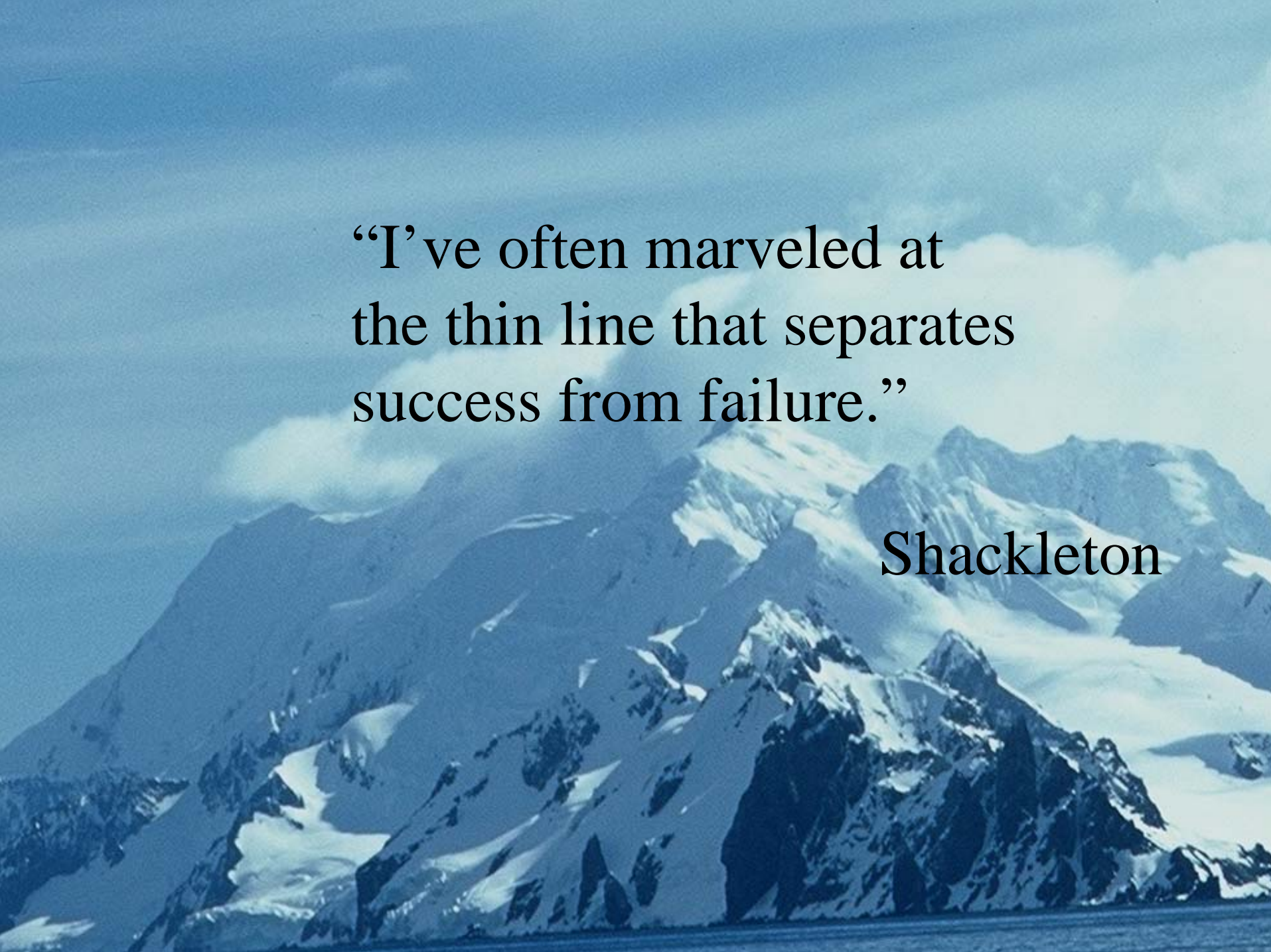


Shackleton

- Courage in the face of adversity.
- Determination against all odds.
- Grace under pressure.
- Working well with others.
- Flat out refusal to ever give up hope.

Shackleton's Way:

- Leading by Example
- Communicating Effectively
- Keeping up Morale
- Maintaining a Positive Attitude

A photograph of a snow-capped mountain range under a blue sky with wispy clouds. The mountains are rugged and covered in snow, with some dark rock visible. The sky is a clear blue with some light, wispy clouds. The overall tone is cool and serene.

“I’ve often marveled at
the thin line that separates
success from failure.”

Shackleton

Maintaining a Positive Attitude

“Hurley finishes negatives.
Everyone fit & cheerful.
Banjo going tonight.”

Shackleton

Diary entry, November 7, 1915



“A leader is a dealer in hope.”

Napoleon

Maintaining a Positive Attitude

“Optimism is true
moral courage.”

Shackleton

Communicating Effectively

“A characteristic speech –
simple, moving, optimistic
and highly effective.”

Leonard Hussey

Communicating Effectively

“He had a nice way of
getting into a conversation.”

Alexander Macklin

Leading by Example

“He led, he did not drive.”

G. Vibert Douglas

Leading by Example

“Shackleton met the crisis with complete composure. He gave orders as though we were setting out on a sledging expedition.”

Frank Hurley

Keeping up Morale

“The one thing he demanded from us was cheerfulness.”

Leonard Hussey

Keeping up Morale

“His method was the constant application of small corrections, unnoticed by nearly everyone, yet very potent in their cumulative effect.”

Reginald James




Shackleton's Thoughts on Leadership

Shackleton on Leadership

- “Leadership is a fine thing, but it has its penalties. And the greatest penalty is loneliness.”

Shackleton on Leadership

- “You often have to hide from them not only the truth, but your feelings about the truth. You may know that the facts are dead against you, but you mustn’t say so.”



“The simple things,
the true things,
The silent men
who do things.”

Robert W. Service